

of Labor's commitment to issuing an ergonomics standard, more than 6 million workers have suffered serious job injuries from these hazards. Each year, 650,000 workers lose a day or more of work because of ergonomic injuries, costing businesses \$15–20 billion per year.

Ursula Stafford, 24 years old, worked as a paraprofessional for the New York City school district. She was injured assisting a 250-pound wheelchair-bound student. She received no training on how to lift the student, nor did her employer provide any lifting equipment. After two days on the job, she suffered a herniated disc and spasms in her neck. As a result of her injuries, her doctor told her that she may not be able to have children, because her back may not be able to support the weight.

Charley Richardson, a shipfitter at General Dynamics in Quincy, Massachusetts, sustained a career-ending back injury when he was ordered to install a 75-pound piece of steel to reinforce a deck. Although he continued to try to work, he found that on many days, he could not endure the pain of lifting and using heavy tools. For years afterwards, his injury prevented him from participating in basic activities. The loss that hurt Charley the most was having to tell his grandchildren they could not sit on his lap for more than a couple of minutes, because it was too painful. To this day, he cannot sit for long without pain.

OSHA has proposed an ergonomics standard to protect workers from these debilitating injuries. Yet in spite of the costs to employers and to workers and their families, industry has launched an all-out, no-holds-barred effort to prevent OSHA from issuing this important standard. A stronger standard would go a long way to reducing this leading cause of injury.

Ergonomics programs have been shown to make a difference in reducing the number of injuries that occur on the job. Johns Hopkins University initiated a program which significantly reduced the rate of such injuries by 80 percent over seven years. A poultry processor's program lowered the incidence of workers' compensation claims by 20 percent. A program by Intel Corporation produced a savings of more than \$10 million.

Hopefully, after this long battle, a national ergonomics standard will finally be put in place this year. If so, it will be the most significant workplace safety protection in the 30 years since OSHA became law. The ergonomic standard will be a landmark achievement in improving safety and health for all workers in America. May this Workers Memorial Day serve as a monument to the progress we are making, and as a constant reminder of our obligation to do more, much more, to achieve the great goal we share.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, April 28, 2000,

the Federal debt stood at \$5,685,108,228,594.76 (Five trillion, six hundred eighty-five billion, one hundred eight million, two hundred twenty-eight thousand, five hundred ninety-four dollars and seventy-six cents).

One year ago, April 26, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,598,230,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-eight billion, two hundred thirty million).

Five years ago, April 28, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,852,327,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifty-two billion, three hundred twenty-seven million).

Ten years ago, April 28, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,059,578,000,000 (Three trillion, fifty-nine billion, five hundred seventy-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 28, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$515,176,000,000 (Five hundred fifteen billion, one hundred seventy-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,169,932,228,594.76 (Five trillion, one hundred sixty-nine billion, nine hundred thirty-two million, two hundred twenty-eight thousand, five hundred ninety-four dollars and seventy-six cents) during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING TOP GEORGIA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and honor two young Georgia students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Shelaresh Ruffin of Atlanta and Sagen Woolery of Warner Robins have just been named State Honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle-level student in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Shelaresh Ruffin is being recognized for her efforts in developing an intervention program that targets at-risk teens. The program is designed to help further educate and discipline teens in overcoming drug and behavioral problems. Mr. Sagen Woolery is being honored for volunteering his time and creating "The Kid's Kitchen," a soup kitchen for needy children and their families which is fully operated by kids between the ages of 8–12.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Ruffin and Mr. Woolery are inspiring examples to all

of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

Ms. Ruffin and Mr. Woolery should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. As part of their recognition, they will come to Washington in early May, along with other 2000 Spirit of Community Honorees from across the country, for several days of special events, including a congressional breakfast reception on Capitol Hill.

I heartily applaud Ms. Ruffin and Mr. Woolery for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others.

In addition, I also salute other young people in Georgia who were named Distinguished Finalists by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. They are: Vidya Margaret Anegundi of Lilburn, Shamea Crane of Morrow, Lyndsey Miller of Atlanta, Jessica Nickerson of Savannah, Leslie Pruett of LaGrange, and Erin Shealy of Watkinsville.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can and do play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. ●

##### GOREVILLE, ILLINOIS, CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the great people of Goreville, IL, during their centennial celebration. Although Goreville was not officially incorporated until 1900, it has been a busy settlement since before the Civil War. A post office was established as early as 1886, after the Gore family migrated from Georgia to settle on the land they had purchased from the government in 1854. When the Civil War broke out, General John A. Logan visited the community to recruit volunteers for his 31st Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which rendezvoused at Camp Dunlap in Jacksonville, IL, before moving on to Fort Defiance in Cairo, IL.

When the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad went through Johnson County in 1889, the village moved its businesses down the road. This flexibility proved beneficial to Goreville as the small village prospered.

In April 1900, the village was incorporated, and was formally recognized by the State of Illinois in a small ceremony on July 5, 1900. While Goreville's population has never been extremely large, it has gradually grown to 900 people. Goreville is nestled next to Ferne Clyffe State Park. In 1923, the State Park was declared "the most beautiful spot in Illinois."